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News Release

For Immediate Release
Contact: Gayle Perez 719 924 5471
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Narcotics Detectives Find Illegal Marijuana Grow in Rural Avondale

Pueblo, CO: Pueblo County Sheriff's Narcotics detectives, acting on a tip from a citizen, discovered an illegal marijuana grow in rural Avondale this morning. One person was arrested and 36 marijuana plants worth an estimated \$36,000 were seized. State law allows only 12 marijuana plants per household.

Detectives went to a home in the 3200 block of 40th Lane after receiving information of a possible illegal marijuana grow on the property. Detectives contacted the property owner, identified as John Mata, 55, who admitted he was growing marijuana. Mata gave consent for detectives to look on the property.

Detectives found 12 mature marijuana plants growing in an outdoor area. Mata also gave consent for detectives to look in a recently constructed outbuilding on the property. Detectives found another 24 marijuana plants in various stages of growth in the outbuilding. Detectives found no evidence of a marijuana grow license for the property.

Detectives sought and executed a search warrant and found evidence of marijuana distribution and several guns.

Mata was arrested for cultivation of marijuana (30 plants or more) (CR 18-18-406(3) (a), Drug Felony 3), possession with intent to manufacture or distribute marijuana 50 pounds (CR 18-18-406 (2) (b) (I) (III) (A), Drug Felony 1) and possession of a weapon by a previous offender (CR 18-12-108 (1) (2) (a), Felony 6). He has been booked into the Pueblo County Jail.

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